



PRECIOUS PIGLET. A rare Visayan warty piglet is seen at the Oregon Zoo's Island Pigs of Asia habitat. The three-week-old Visayan warty pig — a species considered among the most endangered in the world — was born on June 9, 2016. While adult warty pigs have coarse gray hair, piglets are born with brown and yellow stripes, a camouflage pattern that fades after about a year. (Photo/Michael Durham, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo)

Highly endangered Visayan warty pig baby born at the Oregon Zoo

A three-week-old Visayan warty pig — a species considered among the most endangered in the world — prompted squeals of joy from Oregon Zoo visitors in late June as he explored his outdoor habitat for the first time, frolicking alongside his mom, Marge.

Born June 9, the piglet has been nursing well and has even started eating some fruits and vegetables, according to senior keeper Julie Christie. While adult warty pigs have coarse gray hair, piglets are born with brown and yellow stripes, a camouflage pattern that fades after about a year.

"He looks like a little watermelon with legs," Christie said. "There are probably fewer than 300 of these animals left in the entire world, so each birth is really something to celebrate."

Christie hopes the curious and active piglet will be a charismatic ambassador for his species — educating visitors about the importance of saving the rare pigs and their ever-shrinking habitat.

Considered critically endangered, Visayan warty pigs are native to just six islands of the Philippines and have gone extinct on four of them. Slash-and-burn farming has destroyed their habitat at an

alarming rate, leaving only small pockets of the species, which are isolated from each other and face dwindling food sources.

Following an urgent appeal from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Oregon Zoo became the fourth zoo in the nation to establish a breeding group of Visayan warty pigs. Marge came to Portland from the Los Angeles Zoo in 2007, joining Samar and Maganda, who arrived from the San Diego Zoo in 2006. A typical breeding group consists of one male and several females.

Little is known about Visayan warty pigs, which develop spiky, Mohawk-like manes during mating season. They have only been recognized as a separate species since 1993 and are named for the three pairs of fleshy "warts," or bumps, on their faces.

Visitors are able to see the new arrival on most days between 10:00am and 1:00pm at the zoo's Island Pigs of Asia habitat. To view a video of the piglet exploring his outdoor habitat for the first time, visit <bit.ly/WartyPiglet>.

The Oregon Zoo is located at 4001 S.W. Canyon Road in Portland. To learn more, call (503) 226-1561 or visit <www.oregonzoo.org>.

Beaverton BOLD program wins Public Involvement award

The City of Beaverton's BOLD (Beaverton Organizing and Leadership Development) program has won a 2016 Public Involvement Best Practices Award from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter. The 2016 Best Planning/Policy Making Project award was given to the City of Beaverton for BOLD's innovative approach to engaging historically underrepresented populations in city government.

"We're honored to receive this recognition from a highly respected organization like IAP2," said mayor Denny Doyle. "We're very proud of the BOLD program and how it has helped us build bridges to our increasingly diverse population."

BOLD is a leadership and civic engagement program offered by the city in partnership with Unite Oregon (formerly the Center for Intercultural Organizing). The program is held each spring, is specifically designed for immigrants, refugees, and people of color, and exposes participants to the fundamentals of community leadership, cross-cultural organizing, structure of local government, and ways to get involved. More than 80 people have participated in the four years the program has been offered.

The awards were presented at the chapter's biennial "PI Works!" conference

held in Bend, Oregon. In addition to BOLD's award, the Portland Water Bureau and JLA received the 2016 Best Capital Project award for the Washington Park Reservoir Improvements Project.

IAP2 is an international association of members who seek to promote and improve the practice of public participation in relation to individuals, governments, institutions, and other entities that affect the public interest in nations throughout the world. The Cascade Chapter's awards recognize projects in the public realm (planning, construction, or policymaking) in Oregon and Southwest Washington that promote meaningful and innovative opportunities for community engagement.

To learn more about the BOLD program, visit <www.interculturalorganizing.org>.

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